

ELK GROVE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1985

All About Special Districts

What is a Special District?

■ Special districts are formed by local communities to serve specific local needs such as water, fire, park and recreation, sewage or cemetery management. Special districts work for the people, and maintain a special relationship with the community that is unparalleled to any other government entity. Special Districts are typically formed to provide a specialized community service or a higher level of existing service.

■ The Elk Grove Community Services District is a special district providing parks, recreation, fire protection and emergency medical services to the Elk Grove community for the past 20 years.

What are the benefits of a Special District?

- Special Districts are specialized forms of local government, usually focused on one or two needs.
- Because the Districts are specialized, revenue from property tax and other revenue streams are dedicated and secure. Residents know exactly where their tax dollars are being spent.
- Special Districts aren't mandated by the state, but approved directly by voters.
- Special Districts increase accountability because they are closer to the people they serve.
- Compared to a City, Special Districts are usually smaller, and more focused on specific needs of the community.



For more information, or to sign up as a Friend of the CSD please visit www.egcsd.ca.gov

Updated April 2005

How a Duplicate Parks System Affects YOU!

The City of Elk Grove is proceeding with plans to create a city-run park system even though parks are the responsibility of the voter-controlled Elk Grove Community Services District. This unnecessary duplication of services will affect all Elk Grove residents.

Duplicates Taxes

■ The City of Elk Grove is proposing to spend taxpayer dollars intended for other services, such as police and roads, to duplicate services that the CSD is already providing.

Financial Impacts to Elk Grove Residents

■ A planned sports complex and aquatic complex may not be built due to the loss of \$10 million previously allocated for park development. The CSD plans regionally for recreation facilities throughout Elk Grove, and these facilities are funded by park development fees generated from new homes. The proposed city-run park system will not require Laguna Ridge residents to pay their fair share toward these regional facilities.

■ The City Council is wasting nearly a quarter million dollars hiring consultants and creating a position to oversee open space — work that the CSD is already doing with existing tax dollars.

■ The City of Elk Grove has no experience in park design, development, operations or maintenance. The city will need to hire staff to support their park service, duplicating the existing expertly trained staffing currently in place with the CSD.

Reduces Efficiency

■ A duplicate park system will decrease efficiency of service, while only providing frustration for residents not knowing which agency to call for park issues.



Impacts to the Elk Grove Fire Department

■ If the CSD is forced to use other funds to account for the \$10 million loss, a financial strain may be placed on fire and emergency services, currently among the best in the state.

Impacts to Communitywide Special Events

■ The city's actions also jeopardize special community events and programs that residents have enjoyed for years, such as the Harvest and Giant Pumpkin Festival, concerts in the park and environmental education programs for children.



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